

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 10205 092137Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W
-----018585 092140Z /61
Z 092110Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 4788

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 10205

STADIS//////////

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PBOR, IS, LE, UNSC
SUBJECT: LEBANON: IMMINENT ISRAELI MOVES

REF: STATE 201267

1. DO NOT RPT NOT ADVISE PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE NOW. SECRETARY VANCE MADE ELOQUENT CASE FOR MAXIMUM RESTRAINT TO BEGIN IN PERSON ONLY TWO DAYS AGO. WITHOUT MORE CREDIBLE EVIDENCE THAT WE, SAUDIS, OR SOMEONE ELSE ARE EXERTING FORCEFUL PRESSURE ON SYRIANS, EFFECT OF PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE WOULD BE QUICKLY DISSAPATED AS TRAGEDY IN BEIRUT UNFOLDS. IF THAT EVIDENCE WERE AVAILABLE, WETHEN WOULD HAVE EFFECTIVE PEG TO DEMAND CONTINUED RESTRAINT FROM ISRAELIS AND THEIR CHRISTIAN FRIENDS. JUST NOW IT IS NOT.

2. ISRAELIS MAY HAVE A POINT ABOUT SYRIANS NO LONGER FEARING THEIR REACTION. NEWS IS WIDESPREAD THAT WE HAVE BEEN EXERTING SUBSTANTIAL PRESSURE HERE, AND SYRIANS MAY NOW UNCORRECTLY BELIEVE WE HAVE EFFECTIVELY TIED THE ISRAELI HANDS.

3. FOR DRAPER: YOU MAY BELIEVE THAT ONE LAF COMPANY TO TIBNIN IS GOING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN BEIRUT. I HOPE YOU ARE RIGHT. THE ISRAELIS ARE SURE YOU ARE WRONG. IN THIER VIEW, KEY TO PROBLEM

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PAGE 02 TEL AV 10205 092137Z

IN BEIRUT IS NOT LEBANESE GOVERNMENT, IT IS SYRIANS WHO, ISRAELIS ARE SURE, HAVE DESIGNS ON LEBANON. WE ARE NOT GOING TO CONVINCE THEM OTHERWISE. BEGIN AND HIS COLLEAGUES BELIEVE SOLUTION TO BEIRUT SHELLING HAS ALMOST NOTHING TO DO WITH WHAT SARKIS THINKS, WANTS, DOES. IT IS THE SYRIANS WHO MUST BE MADE TO STOP. IF WE CAN'T DO IT, THE ISRAELIS WILL EVENTUALLY TRY. NO PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

WILL CHANGE THAT, AT LEAST NOT ONE WHICH I COULD PRESENTLY DRAFT.
LEWIS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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